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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL of California).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 10, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN CAMPBELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Ross Thomson, Bammel Church of Christ, Houston, Texas, offered the following prayer:

Lord, as we gather in this city named for him, we remember George Washington's most precious possession: the keys always on his nightstand, the keys given to him by General Lafayette, the keys to the Bastille.

Lord, we thank You that, two centuries later, we still hold the keys of freedom. We are mindful that then and now, our greatest power is our ability to win hearts and minds; our greatest gift to mankind the inspiration of our ideas; our greatest influence that of moral persuasion.

Lord, You have allowed this Nation the honor of being freedom's first line of defense, and her last bastion of hope. Grant that we might live worthy of our calling and worthy of the hope of those who have gone before; that we in this place, might conduct ourselves with honor, courage and integrity, worthy of this great Republic, worthy of the sacrifices of its citizens. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. STUPAK led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

WELCOMING REVEREND ROSS THOMSON

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Ross Thomson was born in Scotland in 1956. At the age of 4, his family moved to Toowoomba, Australia, where he was raised. While there, he became a Christian. In 1975, faith took his family to Salisbury, Rhodesia for mission work among the Shona tribe. He worked with his father, and would devote the rest of his life to saving souls.

Having lived the ministry for years, Ross moved to the United States to study. He obtained his bachelor and master's degree in theology from Harding University. He did further postgraduate work at Rice University.

In 1989 he married Christine, who is with us today, and moved his family to southeast Texas, Alice, Texas, where he preached for the Morningside Drive congregation.

He has preached for the Brooks Avenue Church of Christ in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Northlake Church of Christ in Atlanta, Georgia. Currently he is the pulpit minister for the 1,200

member Bammel Church of Christ in Houston.

Christine and Ross are blessed with three children, Joshua, Savannah and Justin.

It is clear Ross, with his proper Scottish background, was not born in Texas, but he got there as fast as he could. He became a U.S. citizen in 2002.

One of my favorite stories about Ross was his first trip to an American grocery store. The first place he went was a southern grocery store called Piggly Wiggly. Puzzled, he didn't quite understand that concept.

He has done much to preach the gospel of Jesus in Texas, and spends time in the people business. So today we welcome Ross here to the United States Congress, and appreciate his determination to practice and live the freedom of religion under the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank our local partners in helping spread the word about the new prescription drug benefit. Southeastern Virginia Senior Services and Eastern Shore Senior Services have worked very diligently to sign people up and to spread information.

Many of our local pharmacists, I would like to thank them as well, have allowed people to drop off their information and return for a list of the plans that cover their drugs.

Remember, Medicare part D is a voluntary program. It is a private sector insurance plan with a reduced premium. Many seniors do not need to sign up at all because their coverage is as good or better than Medicare. That would include our Federal retirees, State retirees, military, and many private sector retirees.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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